01127

1964/04/05

SANITIZED
Authority NSC 9-8-83 NCJ 76-331
By ___ NARS, Date 11-3-83

Formal

W. J.

INCOMING TELEGRAM · Department of State

File
Pres-Lodge

M

Action

SS

Info

~~TOP SECRET~~

CONTROL 4007
RECD APRIL 5, 1964 9:34 PM

FROM SAIGON

ACTION SECSTATE 1910 PRIORITY

DATE APRIL 6, 10 PM

~~T O P S E C R E T~~

DEPT PASS OSD FOR INFO AS SAIGON 5, JCS FOR INFO AS 5, CIA FOR INFO AS 4 CINCPAC 1002

AS REGARDS JCS 5623 AND 5624, MY COMMENTS ARE AS FOLLOWS:

1. IT IS NOT CLEAR TO ME WHY THE [redacted] LOSSES WERE SUSTAINED [redacted]

2. I DO NOT BELIEVE ANY OF THESE MISSIONS CAN BE JUSTIFIED EXCEPT AS PART OF A WELL THOUGHT OUT DIPLOMATIC MANEUVER WITH REGARD TO HO CHI MINH WHICH I HAVE REPEATEDLY ADVOCATED AND DESIGNED TO BRING ABOUT AN IMPROVEMENT IN INTERNATIONAL POWER POLITICS.

3. IF, UNKNOWN TO ME, WE ARE UNDERTAKING THIS KIND OF LARGE DIPLOMATIC MANEUVER (WHICH I BELIEVE WOULD BE EXTREMELY CONSTRUCTIVE) AND THESE MISSIONS ARE CARRIED OUT AS PART OF SUCH A MANEUVER, THEN THE QUESTION ARISES AS TO WHETHER [redacted] ARE THE WAY TO DO IT. I KNOW FROM EXPERIENCE HOW DIFFICULT THIS KIND OF WORK IS.

4. IF, HOWEVER, IT IS DECIDED THAT THIS IS THE WAY TO DO IT, AND THAT THE MISSIONS ARE JUSTIFIABLE, THEN I WOULD BE WILLING [redacted]

5. [redacted]

GP-1

LODGE

NOTE: PASSED OSD, JCS, CIA, CINCPAC AT 10:15 PM. 4-5-64.
Handled as EXDIS per SS-0

REPRODUCTION FROM THIS COPY IS PROHIBITED UNLESS "UNCLASSIFIED"

LODGE-RUSK 5 April 1964

COPY
Lyndon B. Johnson Library